

2006 Annual Report (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)



Washington Conservation Districts
assisting land managers with their
conservation choices

XYZ Conservation District

Featured Natural Resource Accomplishment in XYZ Conservation District

Smith River Fish Returning Smith River – XYZ County

Resource Challenge:

Literally thousands of juvenile fish were lost to the unscreened surface diversions for irrigated agriculture each year in the Smith River. As recent as eight years ago, 55 active diversions within the stream reaches used by Coho salmon and steelhead were unscreened. Fish were dying, fishers and citizens were upset of the decline of the fishery resources and related recreation, tourism economic opportunities for XYZ County.

Project Summary:

The project instigated by the XYZ CD and the Smith River Watershed Council is the largest, most concerted fish screening effort in XYZ County, and likely the region. Through the Smith River project, a total of 32 fish screens were constructed of the 55 screens needed within the areas of the watershed used by Coho salmon, steelhead, and native trout. Results from screening surface diversions to protect juvenile fish was evident in December 2004-January 2005 when the Smith River received the largest return of Coho salmon in decades measured at 750 adults returning through the Smith River system.

Results and Accomplishments:

The 32 screens were placed in critical areas identified by the state fish and game agency starting at the lower portion of the river so that agriculture irrigation can occur in the valley while protecting the juvenile fish from being killed by pumps or being transported into fields to die. The estimated 20 active diversions that remain unscreened are in the upper most diversions in the watershed. Working with the CD staff each land owner in cooperation with the state fish and game agency will provide fish screen maintenance oversight to ensure the fish screens are being properly maintained and that the by-pass flows are adequate. The screens installed estimated lifetime (20 years) given continued maintenance and barring natural disaster. The returning anadromous fish populations in the Smith River watershed

provide an economic charge to the community estimated at \$3 million per year in tourist and recreational activities. The indicator of success will be in the number of returning adults and out-migrating juveniles over the next five years.



Example of Standard Fish Screen Design – 3 cfs

Key Partners Involved:

State Coastal Salmon Recovery Program
State Department of Fish and Game
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Resource Legacy Fund Foundation
Smith River Watershed Water Quality Improvement
Wildlife Conservation Board

For More Information Contact:

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XYZ Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Joe Jollyrancher, Jane Horsekeeper, Bob
Timberharvester, Susan Fishcatcher, David Soilwatcher

Legislative District:

State Legislative District #23
Congressional District #7

Funding:

County & Other Local	\$75,000
State	\$80,000
Federal	\$35,000
Private	\$15,000
Total	\$205,000

Annual Natural Resources Status Report

{XYZ} Conservation District



Background Information:

The XYZ Conservation District has been serving local citizens since its beginning on May 17, 1949. The District consists of 294,160 acres of privately owned land, and 882,000 acres of publicly managed lands totaling 1,176,160 acres in the XYZ CD including Smith River watershed, Salmon River watershed, and portions of the Best River. The population of 78,000 people mostly lives in the towns of Fort Jones, Greenview, Etna, and Callahan and adjacent areas. The district includes a majority of the Jones National Forest. Native forest and rangelands make most of the district with livestock operations and forestry operations important part of the area's culture and appeal. A strong recreation and tourism industry exists especially in the fishing seasons and in the summer months as visitors use the area to escape from highly populated areas.

Mission of the XYZ Conservation District:

The mission of the XYZ Conservation District is to recognize, identify, and meet conservation and restoration needs through voluntary landowner/manager and resource user participation by providing technical, financial, and educational leadership within the bounds of the District.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

Water Quantity Conservation:

By June 2011 have assisted land managers with stock watering systems, irrigation efficiency practices application resulting in 50 cfs of flow returned to the Smith River.

Water Quality & Soil Erosion Reduction:

By June 2011 soil erosion has been reduced by 20% through stream channel stabilization projects, improved upland road practices and decommissioning, and riparian zone plantings and meet TMDL levels for the Smith River and tributaries through best practice application on rangeland and areas near streams.

Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat Improvement

By June 2011 improve conditions for fish within the Smith River Watershed through fish screen installation, and best practices application for habitat improvement.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals: Community Participation

By June 2011 have 75% of the land/owner managers providing input to and participating in XYZ CD events and activities and have provided conservation education opportunities for over 2000 students.

Critical Geographic Areas:

The Smith River watershed has a mountainous perimeter that is void of virtually all development, which sets it apart from the rest of the county. The valley floor is essentially flat, with the primary land use being for agriculture. Timber and mining have also been major contributors to the economy in the past. Most development is located within and around cities and communities; however, demographics are changing with the steady reduction of the timber industry over the past decade. These changes are manifested in the increased residential and small land ownerships developing in wooded areas of the foothill perimeters of the valley.

Natural Resources Information & Status: Forest Land

- Total of 572,000 acres with 512,000 acres in public lands
- To date - forest management plans completed on 30,000 acres of private forest land with 15,000 acres having plans applied – 125 of 217 land owners have been assisted with 5 cooperators completing new practice application on 2,300 acres in 2005

Rangeland

- Total of 492,000 acres with 370,000 acres in public lands
- To date – range management plans have been completed on 124,000 acres of grazing lands with plans applied on 67,000 acres – 182 of 269 land owners have been assisted with 15 cooperators completing new practice application involving 16,536 acres in 2005

Cropland

- Total of 9,800 acres all privately owned land – 85% pasture and hay crops, limited barley production
- To date – conservation plans have been completed on 5,730 acres with plans applied on 4,320 acres – 47 of 64 land owners have been assisted with 3 cooperators completing new practice application involving 1,392 acres in 2005

Urban & Other

- 2,300 total acres - no conservation plans

Water Resources

- Major river system – Smith River with TMDL's exceeded on 60% of the stream miles for temperature, sediments, and nutrient loading
- Completed monitoring on 3 sub watersheds including 172,000 acres of privately owned land

(Excerpts from Siskiyou Resource Conservation District Annual Report and Long Range Plans – with permission on 3.6.06)